

they invited Mr. John Bowis a builder of furnaces of long experience, and high reputation for skill and integrity, to examine the premises, and estimate the cost of the furnaces and necessary apparatus, a sketch of his proposed furnace, and his estimate of its cost is herewith submitted as part of this report; from which it will be seen that the whole cost of a furnace of sufficient power to heat the hall of the house of delegates, its committee room, including workmanship and materials, and the necessary excavations will be five hundred and sixty four dollars, and if thirty six dollars be added for the expense of fitting the doors and windows of the hall, so as to exclude the great quantity of cold air which enters the hall in every direction, the entire cost will be six hundred dollars. It may be assumed that the average duration of the sessions of the General Assembly will not be less than seventy five days, the sessions for several years past have exceeded that length; your committee believe from their own observation, and from the best means of information within their reach, that the cost of fuel for the house of delegates, and its committee room, is not less than five dollars per day, for the session, but to be certainly within bounds, they assume four dollars per day, as the cost which for a session of seventy five days, would make a cost of three hundred dollars for fuel; your committee are informed that the daily consumption of coals in the proposed furnace, would be about one bushel per day, but for greater safety they assume two bushels per day, as the quantity necessary, the cost per bushel will not exceed twenty five cents or fifty cents per day, which for a session of seventy five days, would make thirty seven and a half dollars for coals; to which add twelve and a half dollars for annual expenses to furnace, and that sum your committee are informed would keep the furnace in repair for all time to come; and the annual expense for fuel and repair of furnace, would be fifty dollars; being a saving of two hundred and fifty dollars per annum, a sum sufficient to defray all the cost of erecting said furnace in a little more than two years.

The house of delegates is now composed of eighty members, (six more will be added next session) and to warm the room in which they set, one fire-place is built in one side of the hall, the size and form of the room is such, that very large fires must be kept up, or their warmth is not felt save in the immediate vicinity of the hearth, the consequence is that during cold weather those members who set near the fire, are rendered uncomfortable from too